

Message Text

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TO USMISSION USNATO IMMEDIATE

INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

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EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR BENNETT

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, MPOL, NATO, GR, TU

SUBJECT: SOUTHEASTERN FLANK COMMAND CHANGES

PLEASE PASS ALONG FOLLOWING COMMENTS TO GENERAL HAIG BEFORE
JOINT DPC-MC MEETING SCHEDULED FOR 1015 BRUSSELS TIME
DECEMBER 21:

BEGIN TEXT

REF: A. SACEUR 201020Z DEC 77 B. SACEUR 161650Z DEC 77

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1. WE WERE INFORMED BY REFTEL A THAT LUNS HAS SCHEDULED
JOINING DPC-MC MEETING FOR 1015 BRUSSELS TIME WEDNESDAY,
DECEMBER 21 TO SEEK APPROVAL FOR DRAFT ANNOUNCEMENT AGREED
TO BY GENERAL HAIG AND TURKISH GENERAL SANCAR FOR TURKS TO
FILL NATO SOUTHEASTERN COMMAND POSITIONS EFFECTIVE EARLY
SUMMER 1978. TEXT OF THIS PROPOSED ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS:

QUOTE:

SINCE MID-1974 POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN NATO'S SOUTH-EASTERN FLANK HAVE MADE COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR NATO MILITARY FORCES OPERATING IN THAT THEATER

INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT AND INEFFECTIVE. BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF NATO AND NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, THE COMMAND BILLETTS FOR LANDSOUTHEAST HEADQUARTERS AND THE SIXTH ALLIED TACTICAL AIR FORCES HEADQUARTERS IN IZMIR WILL BE

FILLED BY TURKISH GENERALS IN EARLY SUMMER 1978. US GENERALS WILL SERVE AS DEPUTIES IN BOTH OF THESE NATO HEADQUARTERS. UNQUOTE

2. WE AGREE THAT PROPOSED COMMAND CHANGES WILL:

A. ALLEVIATE DIFFICULT NATO COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS CAUSED BY PROLONGATION OF GREEK-TURKISH DISPUTE, AND

B. IN VIEW OF RESUMPTION OF TALKS LEADING TO GREEK REINTEGRATION, WILL:

(1) PROVIDE TURKS WITH RECOGNITION OF THEIR CONTINUED
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FULL COMMITMENT TO NATO AND

(2) REMIND GREEKS THAT NATO MAY HAVE TO CONSIDER ALTERNATIVES TO THEIR CONTINUING NONPARTICIPATION.

3. WE ARE CONCERNED, HOWEVER, THAT ANNOUNCEMENT, AS IT IS PRESENTLY DRAFTED, WILL UNNECESSARILY EXACERBATE THE NEGATIVE GREEK REACTION EXPECTED PER REFTELS. WE WOULD THEREFORE PROPOSE FOLLOWING REVISED TEXT:

"THE NATO COMMAND POSITIONS LOCATED IN IZMIR, TURKEY FOR LANDSOUTHEAST HEADQUARTERS AND THE SIXTH ALLIED TACTICAL AIR FORCES HEADQUARTERS HAVE TO DATE BEEN FILLED BY GENERAL OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES FORCES. IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE COMMAND AND CONTROL ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE INTEGRATED NATO MILITARY FORCES OPERATING IN THAT THEATER, THE SACEUR HAS DETERMINED, WITH MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF NATO AND APPROPRIATE NATIONAL AUTHORITIES, THAT THESE POSITIONS SHOULD BE FILLED BY TURKISH GENERAL OFFICERS EFFECTIVE EARLY SUMMER 1978. UNITED STATES GENERAL OFFICERS WILL SERVE AS DEPUTIES IN BOTH OF THESE NATO HEADQUARTERS. THESE ARRANGEMENTS, AS WITH ALL NATO COMMAND POSITIONS,

CAN BE ADJUSTED AS CHANGES IN THE POLITICAL AND MILITARY
SITUATION OF THE AREA REQUIRE."

END TEXT.

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